



Commission Update

April 2000

Commission Update is the monthly newsletter of the California Children & Families Commission. To offer ideas for future editions, call Nicole Kasabian, Deputy Director for Communications, at (916) 323-2542.

Funding Spotlight – Safe from the Start

The State Commission has approved up to \$300,000 in funding for *Safe from the Start*, a program to address the effects of violence on young children. Along with the State Commission, this program is sponsored by the Office of State Attorney General Bill Lockyer, the U.S. Department of Justice, the L.A. County District Attorney, the Cities, Counties and Schools (CCS) Partnership and the I Am Your Child Foundation.

New research points to the devastating long-term effects of violence on the developing human brain. According to the State Attorney General's office, "Children exposed to violence and maltreatment suffer increased depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress, anger, alcohol and drug abuse and lower academic achievement." Young children subjected to violence – both as victims and witnesses – run a far greater risk of becoming offenders themselves.

In addition, fragmented service delivery systems may limit treatment alternatives available to families. The *Safe from the Start* initiative intends to increase coordination between organizations to improve services and treatment for families.

Leaders in public safety, criminal justice, social services and public and mental health, as well as school board members, superintendents, county supervisors, mayors, city council members, community-based organizations and advocates, are expected for the program's kick-off symposium in Los Angeles on May 17. Discussion will address why violence prevention

and early intervention are essential to any local strategy for child and youth well-being, how to include younger children in violence prevention strategies and where to find resources for local partnerships.

In addition to Lockyer, featured speakers include State Commission Chair Rob Reiner, L.A. District Attorney Gil Garcetti, California Health and Human Services Secretary Grantland Johnson, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.

Following the symposium, six community forums held throughout the state will allow local leaders to both pool resources and begin to develop proposals to address the impact of violence on children. Through these community forums, County Commissions may offer their unique perspectives, as well as input on how their Commissions may contribute to solutions.

Finally, a report detailing regional findings, community action plans and technical assistance needs will be compiled, and an advisory group will assist in implementation.

For more information, call the State Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center at (916) 324-7863, or visit www.safestate.org to register for the kick-off symposium.

CCFC Website

Log on to the California Children and Families Commission website at www.ccfc.ca.gov to check out past issues of the newsletter, State Commission meeting notes, County Commission contact information and a clearinghouse of information on Prop. 10 focus areas.

Procedures for Receiving County Commission Plans Announced

The State Commission has outlined new procedures for receiving County Strategic Plans in an April 6, 2000 letter to County Commissions.

These procedures are intended to make it easier to share information about County Commission plans across a variety of audiences, including other County Commissions, the State Commission, the Governor's Office, the Legislature, the Legislative Analyst and other stakeholders. In addition, plans will be posted on the State Commission's website for review by the general public, in keeping with the spirit of Prop. 10.

To facilitate this process, the following are requested with County Strategic Plans:

- A copy of the plan in Microsoft Word, either on a disk or emailed to info@ccfc.ca.gov. If this is not possible, one original and five hard copies of the plan are requested via mail.
- A three- to four-page summary of the plan, including:
 - A description of the process the Commission used in developing the plan (public hearings, workshops, professional consulting assistance, etc.).
 - A description of how the commission plans to disseminate funds, including items such as grants and contracts.
 - A summary of proposed first year expenditures. Expenditure data should be arranged in coordination with the three Focus Areas contained within the **GUIDELINES: A Resource for Developing Prop. 10 Strategic Plans**. Any expenditures that do not fit into the Focus Areas should be placed within an "Other" category. A spreadsheet included in the letter to County Commissions offered a suggested format for arraying expenditures; call Anthony Souza at the State Commission, (916) 323-0056, for additional copies of the spreadsheets.

The State Commission is grateful for your assistance.

* Reminder to County Commissions *

Health and Safety Code Section 130110(d)(1) requires that as of July 1, 2000, County Commissions must have submitted strategic plans in order to continue to receive Prop. 10 funding. While the State Commission does not anticipate that any County Commission will ultimately lose any of its share of Prop. 10 funds, there could be a delay in the distribution of funds to County Commissions that have not completed plans by July 1.

Technical Assistance Center

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Rural counties will have the opportunity to meet with TA Center consultants in a series of strategic planning workshops in Northern California and the Eastern Sierras. The sessions in Redding on May 22 and in Mariposa on May 24 will include a morning overview of Prop. 10 strategic planning, and afternoon one-on-one sessions for County Commissioners and Commission staff with TA Center consultants. For more information contact Cindy Keltner, TA Center Team Leader, at (916) 329-9009, or via email at ckeltner@cchi.org.

TA CENTER MOVE

The TA Center, a project of the California Center for Health Improvement, moved into new office space in late March. Please update your records with our new contact information:

TA Center
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 701
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 329-9009; Fax: (916) 329-9008

The TA Center is made possible by generous grants from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the California Endowment.

California Child Care Arrangements Compared to National Patterns in New Urban Institute Reports

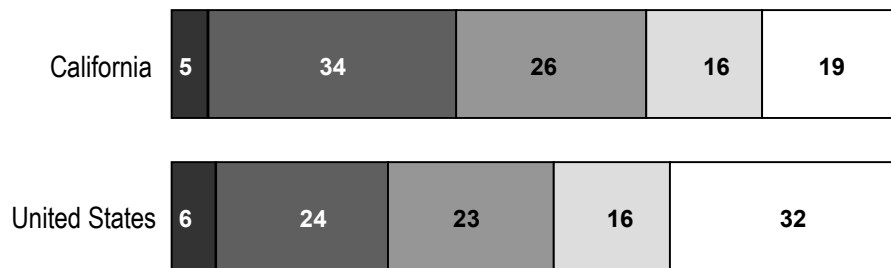
Three new reports examining state-by-state patterns of child care for children ages zero to five offer important information to County Commissions focusing on child care issues. The reports from the Urban Institute found that compared to the national average, fewer children in California with mothers in the workforce are cared for by someone other than a family member (66 percent in California, compared to 78 percent nationally).

Researchers also analyzed center-based child care, care by a non-related person in his or her home (family child care), care by a relative, care by a nanny or babysitter and care by a parent. (See chart.)

In California, about one-fifth of young children are cared for in child care centers when their moms are at work.

Percentage of employed mothers' children under age five in primary child care arrangement

■ nanny/babysitter ■ parent ■ relative □ family child care □ child care center



SOURCE: Urban Institute, 2000, based on calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Researchers also found that one in four infants and toddlers are in full-time care in California, and one-third of three- and four-year olds are in full-time care. California children ages three and four are less likely than children nationally (35 percent and 44 percent, respectively) to have multiple child care arrangements (e.g. a child may be cared for by a babysitter and in a child care center within one week).

Nationally, 26 percent of low-income children are in child care centers, compared to 35 percent of wealthier children. Those from poorer families, on the other hand, are more likely to be cared for by relatives than those from higher-income families (28 percent and 20 percent, respectively).

"Our research demonstrates the importance of child care in the lives of America's families," explained Jeffrey Capizzano, a member of the Urban Institute child care research team. "The tremendous differences between states illustrate the unique child care challenges that state policymakers and administrators face."

The reports are based on the Urban Institute's 1997 Survey of American Families, a poll of 44,000 households (including an oversampling of the low-income population). In-depth data analyses were provided for 12 states, including California. All three reports are available on the Urban Institute's website: www.urban.org.

Upcoming State Commission Meetings

May 18 – Los Angeles*
June 15 – Kings County
July 27 – San Francisco

* *County Commissioners and staff are welcome to accompany the State Commission on site visits to Elizabeth Street and Hope Street family resource centers as part of the Los Angeles meeting.*

Creating Compelling Fact Sheets

Many County Commissions are conducting outreach for their public participation process or to provide information about their strategic plan. The following is intended to assist in developing fact sheets, which can be effective tools in educating community members, reporters, decision and policy makers and others.

Creating fact sheets with county-specific information, or organized around the focus area of your plan, helps you cut through the clutter and offer the most accurate and up-to-date information on community needs.

TIPS FOR CREATING FACT SHEETS

1. Use letterhead from your county/organization to make the document look official.
2. Present facts in bullet points.
3. Make bullets short and concise, keeping language at a seventh-grade comprehension level.
4. Use real-life, relevant examples, numbers and facts. For example, saying, "Child care for one three-year-old in X County costs \$500 a month" is less compelling than "Child care costs more than a one-bedroom apartment in our county."
5. Use multiple statistics or examples to back up your facts.
6. Compare your county to a state or national average.
7. Update the statistics regularly.
8. Cite your data sources – this will add credibility and offer a resource for more information. Citations can be placed in reduced font either in parenthesis at the end of a sentence or as a footnote.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FACT SHEETS

- www.childrennow.org

Children Now breaks down information from their annual Report Card, offering facts for every California county, as well as suggestions on how to use and interpret the data. Fact sheets include information on:

- Demographics
- Family economics
- Health
- Safety
- Education

- www.aecf.org/kidscount/index.htm

The Annie E. Casey Foundation provides the Kids Count index, which tracks the status of children in the U.S. and on a state-by-state basis. You can find California-specific data on:

- The overall well-being of children
- Demographics
- Child health (including low birth-weight and infant mortality rate)
- Social and economic characteristics
- Juvenile justice

- www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids offers fact sheets in the following categories:

- Kids and tobacco use
- Tobacco use among specific populations (ethnic groups, pregnant women, etc.)
- Guidance for creating programs
- Health effects
- The tobacco toll on each state